THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Government had signed two contracts in 1999 and 2001 with a Russian firm for acquisition of nine special purpose helicopters to equip the Navy with the Aribome Early Warning capability.

(b) The total cost of these two contracts was US $ 200.8 million equivalent to Rs. 964.8 crores @ 1 USD=Rs. 48.05.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) of the question.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Recruitment of persons from Punjab into Army and Central Para Military Forces

3409. SHRISUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details and number of persons recruited in Army and other Central Para Military Forces from Punjab during the last three years; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): The number of persons recruited in the Army and the Central Para Military Forces from Punjab during the last three years is given below:—

ARMY

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
5855	7840	6995

PARA-MILITARY FORCES

	2000	2001	2002
Assam Rifles	300	200	NIL
Border Security Force	158	847	432
Central Reserve Police Force	428	295	405
Central Industrial Security Force	43	NIL	47
Indo-Tibet Border Police	14	81	40